

PHARMACARE NEWSLETTER

October 11, 2002

02-09

Page 1 of 4

In this issue

IN MEMORIAM	1
Correction.....	1
Remicade (infliximab) reminder	1
Non-Benefit Compounds.....	1
Special services fees	2
Benefits	2
Non benefits	2
Limited coverage drugs.....	4
Drugs under review	4

This newsletter provides information on the Pharmacare program for British Columbia's community pharmacists. Please circulate among dispensing staff.

Pharmacare on the Web

www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/pharme

IN MEMORIAM

With regret, we advise that Brenda Leah succumbed to cancer on July 7, 2002. Brenda was with Pharmacare for nearly 25 years and was known to most pharmacists in her recent position as Low Cost Alternative Clerk. Brenda is missed by her co-workers, pharmacists and pharmacy staff.

Correction

Butorphanol nasal spray should not have been included on the Limited Coverage Drug table, in the August 14, 2002 (02-08) Newsletter, page 4. Butorphanol is a non-benefit and is only considered for coverage on a case-by-case exceptional basis. There are no criteria for coverage.

Remicade (infliximab) reminder

Please remember to submit claims for Remicade (infliximab) as PER VIAL, not as PER ML.

Non-Benefit Compounds

A new PIN for processing non-benefit compound prescriptions has been created, specifically for controlled compounds e.g. testosterone cream. For your convenience, here is the complete list of non-benefit compound PINs.

Compounded Preparations - Non-Benefit	66123252
Narcotic Compound - Non-Benefit	66123367
Alcoholic Medicinals - Non-Benefit	66123239
Controlled Compound - Non-Benefit	66124162

PHARMACARE NEWSLETTER

October 11 2002

02-09

Page 2 of 4

Special services fees

The number of Special Services fees paid for by Pharmacare over the past twelve months are:

DATE	NO. OF FEES	DATE	NO. OF FEES
Oct 2001	5602	Apr 2002	3581
Nov 2001	5405	May 2002	3789
Dec 2001	5149	June 2002	3804
Jan 2002	3244	July 2002	4061
Feb 2002	2981	Aug 2002	not available
Mar 2002	3288	Sept 2002	4105

Benefits

The following new products have been included as eligible Pharmacare benefits on Plans A, B, C, E and F:

DIN	MAN	DRUG NAME	Short Term	Long Term
2244680	APX	Apo-Floctafenine (floctafenine) tabs 200mg	Y	
2244681	APX	Apo-Floctafenine (floctafenine) tabs 400mg	Y	
2243026	RAM	Ratio-brimonidine (brimonidine tartrate) drops 0.2%		Y

Non benefits

Pharmacare's Drug Benefit Committee recently completed the review of the following products and recommended that these products not be added as benefits under the program:

DIN	MAN	DRUG NAME
2243163	KNO	Meridia [®] (sibutramine HCl M-hydrate) caps 10mg
2243164	KNO	Meridia [®] (sibutramine HCl M-hydrate) caps 15mg
2242572	LIL	Actos [®] (pioglitazoneHCl) tabs 15mg
2242573	LIL	Actos [®] (pioglitazoneHCl) tabs 305mg
2242574	LIL	Actos [®] (pioglitazoneHCl) tabs 45mg
2246016	UNK	Thyrogen [®] 0.9mg/ml vial (thyrotropin alfa) vial 1.1mg
2163675	BMV	Cefzil [®] (cefprozil) powder for oral suspension 125mg/5ml
2163659	BMV	Cefzil [®] (cefprozil) tabs 250mg

PHARMACARE NEWSLETTER

October 11, 2002

02-09

Page 3 of 4

NON BENEFITS (cont'd)

DIN	MAN	DRUG NAME
2163683	BMV	Cefzil (cefprozil) powder for oral suspension 250mg/5ml
2163667	BMV	Cefzil (cefprozil) tabs 500mg
2245438	NVR	Starlix (nateglinide) tabs 60mg
2245439	NVR	Starlix (nateglinide) tabs 120mg
2245440	NVR	Starlix (nateglinide) tabs 180mg
2245345	UNK	Androgel (testosterone) gelpack 1%/2.5 gm/packet
2245346	UNK	Androgel (testosterone) gelpack 1%/5gm/packet
2244126	UNK	Dovobet (betamet diprop/calciptotriene) ointment 0.05/0.005

LCA updates

New products categorized to LCA and/or RDP (please refer to Website for criteria)

The following new products under the Low Cost Alternative Program (LCA) / Reference Drug Program (RDP) have been included as eligible Pharmacare benefits on Plans A, B, C, E & F:

DIN	MAN	DRUG NAME	FULL/ PARTIAL	LCA/RDP Price	Short Term	Long Term	Plan G Eligible	Palliative Care Eligible
2245787	RAM	Ratio Sertraline caps 25mg	P	\$0.5798		Y	Y	Y
2245788	RAM	Ratio Sertraline caps 50mg	P	\$1.1596		Y	Y	Y
2245789	RAM	Ratio Sertraline caps 100mg	P	\$1.2663		Y	Y	Y
2244513	NOP	Novo-Gabapentin (gabapentin) caps 100mg	P	\$0.2996		Y		Y
2244514	NOP	Novo-Gabapentin (gabapentin) caps 300mg	P	\$0.7288		Y		Y
2244515	NOP	Novo-Gabapentin (gabapentin) caps 400mg	P	\$0.8685		Y		Y
2244494	NOP	Novo-Levodopa (carbidopa/levodopa) tabs 10-100mg	P	\$0.2614		Y	Y	
2244495	NOP	Novo-Levodopa (carbidopa/levodopa) tabs 20-100mg	P	\$0.3892		Y	Y	

PHARMACARE NEWSLETTER

October 11, 2002

02-09

Page 4 of 4

New products categorized to
LCA and/or RDP (cont'd)

DIN	MAN	DRUG NAME	FULL/ PARTIAL	LCA/RDP Price	Short Term	Long Term	Plan G Eligible
2244496	NOP	Novo-Levodopa (carbidopa/levodopa) tabs 25-250mg	P	\$0.4345		Y	Y
2241600	FAU	Desferrioxamine mesilate for injection BP (deferoxamine mesylate) vial 500mg	P	\$10.4860	Y		
2244353	NNA	Novorapid (insulin aspart) cartridge 100u/ml Subject to maximum allowable cost	P			Y	

Limited coverage drugs

The following new products have been included as eligible Pharmacare benefits under the Limited Coverage Drug program on Plans A, B, C, E & F by special authority only (please refer to Website for criteria):

DIN	MAN	DRUG NAME	LCA/RDP Price	Short Term	Long Term
2243297	LIL	GLUCAGON (GLUCAGON, HUMAN RECOMBINANT) vial 1mg			Y

Drugs under review

The following drug submissions are currently under review by the Drug Benefit Committee of Pharmacare:

anakinra (KINERET [®])	filgrastim (NEUPOGEN [®]), new indication
ancestim (STEMGEN [®])	glimepiride (AMARYL [®])
alfuzosin (XATRAL [®])	mometasone furoate (AZMAX Twisthaler [®]), resubmission
bimatoprost 0.03% ophth soln (LUMIGAN [®])	rabeprazole (PARIET [®])
bisoprolol (MONOCOR [®]), resubmission	repaglinide (GLUCONORM [®]), resubmission
botulinum toxin (BOTOX [®]), new indication	rivastigmine (EXELON [®]), resubmission
clopidogrel (PLAVIX [®]) new indication	tacrolimus ointment (PROTOPIC [®])
donepezil (ARICEPT [®]), resubmission	17-b-estradiol (VAGIFEM [®])
eprosartan (TEVETEN [®]), resubmission	unoprostone 0.15% (RESCULA [®])



